

FRASER VALLEY COLLEGE

FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

4/85

January, 1985.

1. WHO PAYS FOR B.C. EDUCATION?
2. GRIEVANCE INFORMATION
3. THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW



FRASER VALLEY COLLEGE
FACULTY & STAFF ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

NO. 4

JANUARY, 1985

WHO PAYS THE EDUCATION BILL IN B.C.?

DR. ROBERT WALKER, a professor of education at Simon Fraser, says that "policies directed at education under the guise of restraint are counter-productive economically and dangerously short-sighted socially".

Walker says money seems to be at the root of most policies introduced in B.C. in recent years and that education cutbacks have come about ostensibly because the post-secondary system costs too much. "Of course the term 'too much' is subjective but it is rather enlightening to show who really foots the bill for higher education in B.C.

"Ever since 1976 when the federal government gave the provinces autonomy for the disbursement of transfer payments to education and health the province has allocated less and less resources to both jurisdictions. The provincial trend of giving less to post-secondary education actually started as far back as 1969.

"For 1984-85, for example, the budgets for B.C.'s universities, colleges, the Open Learning Institute, and the Knowledge Network were about \$538.6 million. Federal contributions totalled \$477.7 million or about 89 per cent, while the province contributed \$60.9 million or 11 per cent. What's more, while Ottawa has increased its contributions by \$57.6 million since 1982, the province has reduced post-secondary funding by \$47.7 million over the same period. Do provincial policy makers believe they should bear no responsibility for supporting post-secondary education?"

Walker, a music educator who became involved in education finance research to lobby federal candidates on behalf of the university's faculty association, says the province's manipulation of federal funds for education and health is not lost on federal politicians. "During the recent campaign Conservative candidate Pat Carney said the re-allocation of funds by the province is 'disgraceful'. She said she would press for a re-negotiation of the transfer agreement and that if the province doesn't use the money properly the funds could be cut off."

WHO SUFFERS MOST?

Walker says the real tragedy of education cutbacks are the effects they have on people, particularly the young.

"Do the people of B.C. know, for example, that we have the lowest university participation rate in Canada for the 18 to 24 age group, 9.1 per cent compared to the national average of 13.4 per cent. And this at a time when the unemployment rate for this age group is running between 30 and 50 per cent."

"Are people aware that B.C. has the harshest student financial aid program in North America, that it is the only province to abolish grants and that tuition fees have increased more than 100 per cent since 1981, that a young person in Ontario is twice as likely to earn a degree as one in B.C.?"

"With the grim employment picture, how are young people supposed to pay for higher education? And even if they have the money there is no guarantee they can attend because all three universities are so over-crowded they have had to impose enrolment caps. No matter how you assess post-secondary education, B.C. comes up dead last across Canada."

DOES EDUCATION HELP PEOPLE GET JOBS?

Walker says "Statistics show that only four per cent of university graduates are unemployed while the national average for other groups is running at about 12 per cent. And the trend toward professional and technological jobs will continue in the future. Other provinces recognize this and enrolments are up across the country because it is obvious Canada will have to improve its education standing if we are to compete economically or intellectually in the space age."

"Only in B.C. are enrolments down. Is it fair for government to condemn B.C.'s young people to a lifetime of struggling for a decent existence as untrained laborers? Of course young people can leave the province to get an education but is that what we want?"

B.C.'s ability to graduate professionals has been steadily eroded for years according to Walker. "Over the past decade B.C. employers have had to import 42,000 university graduates from other provinces and other countries because B.C.'s post-secondary system produces enough graduates in only two professions, law and nursing."

"B.C.'s attitude toward higher education defies logic", says Walker. "It is no coincidence that the nations exhibiting the best economic performance are the ones with the highest levels of education. The correct course would appear obvious but since it is not being followed we have to ensure that the message to Victoria is loud and clear. It is penny wise and pound foolish to deny British Columbians access to educational opportunities. I hope the message gets through quickly, because even once it is received the turnaround time for us to get back in step will take years."

GRIEVANCE INFO.

BETTY HARRIS	GRIEVANCE CHAIRPERSON	ABB. 273
--------------	-----------------------	----------

AREA SHOP STEWARDS

1. Colin Bull	Business Office East, and Facilities	Chwk. 426
2. Alan Stokes	Business Office West, and Facilities.	Abb.218/215
3. Jean DePape	Continuing Education, (incl. Contract Serv.)	Abb. 244
4. Diane Nosaty	LRC & Div. of Instruction Secretarial Staff	Chwk. 470
5. Mark Hoffmann	Student Services	Abb. 246
6. Joe Kovacs	Vocational	Abb.339/312
7. Sheryl Henderson	Developmental Studies	Hope 721
8. Wendy Burton	Arts & Applied Arts	Chwk. 422
9. Doug McDowell	Science & Applied Science	Abb. 320

REMEMBER! CALL YOUR SHOP STEWARD WHEN:

- you want information
 - * about your rights
 - * about the Collective Agreement clauses
 - * about the Union

- you want help/representation
 - * to settle a problem before it becomes a grievance
 - * to institute a grievance
- you become aware of possible violations of the Collective Agreement in your area.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

There is a typing mistake in our Collective Agreement which could cause serious problems for people on 'C' contracts.

Clause 31.2 (page 88) lists clauses of the Agreement from which type C people are specifically excluded.

It lists "Clause 26 - Short Term Disability" as excluded. This is NOT correct. Type C people ARE entitled to Short-Term Disability (i.e. Sick Leave)

What it should list is "Clause 27 - Long Term Disability". Type C people are not included in LTD but receive payment "in lieu of".

Please correct your copy of the Collective Agreement.

page 88 - add: 27 Long Term Disability Leave.

DO YOU KNOW THAT you can claim a refund in Pharmaceutical receipts for prescription drugs?

Many people think that this is a benefit for Seniors. It isn't. You can claim 80% of all amounts for 1984 over and above \$175. You get the forms from your pharmacy, stick receipts for all prescriptions in to them, send the total to Victoria before March 30, 1985. In due course, the government will send you a cheque. The College Medical Plan pays 50% of the first \$175.

DO YOU KNOW THAT your extended health benefit will pay for prescribed orthopaedic shoes? (Maximum \$400 for adults and \$200 for dependent children).

It will also pay for speech therapy, podiatry, physiotherapy, and chiropractic fees. (Check your benefits package for the limits).

WHAT THE COMMUNITY LOSES
IN THE CLOSURE OF
THE F.V.C. MISSION CAMPUS

Surprisingly, little concern has been expressed about the closing down of the College operation in Mission. Are we resigned? Careless? Hopeless? Or don't we know enough about what is happening in Mission? Do we think it is just a little outreach programme? Basketweaving? Woolgathering?

It isn't small. A lot goes on in Mission. About 40% of it is leisure programming - the traditional hobby-oriented community education. Is that unimportant in days when there are more seniors and more 'enforced leisure' (unemployment) than ever before? No. Of course it's not unimportant. But Mission also provided University Transfer courses, Adult Basic Education and Second Language Training, part-time vocational training and short-course career update.

These are luxury items?

Let's be specific: Last year the centre served 3,298 students. F.V.C. Mission offered programmes for the mentally handicapped, Industrial First Aid, Grades 10, 11, 12 equivalance, English language - beginning and advanced, Typing, Filing, Business Machines, Shorthand, Word processing, Data entry, Accounting, Medical terminology and transcription, Homemaker training, Office and Reception training, Hospitality Certificate, Electrical Code C & B, and Job Search.

When people are unemployed or underemployed, should such programmes be cut?

In addition, the Mission Centre offered one day workshops for Mental Health and Long Term Care workers, a work experience programme, a one-write accounting course, Cardio-Pulmonary resuscitation, and a workshop for Doctors in Rehabilitation Medicine. It worked with or was used by 19 Community organizations and it also provided access to Knowledge Network. There were the equivalent of 5 full-time faculty, a programme and an office assistant, two part-time supervisory staff and 60 part-time instructors.

The Mission operation of Fraser Valley College was not lavish; it was fulfilling real needs in the community. Where will the students go?

To that nice new building in Abbotsford, right?

Wrong.

Last Fall there were 477 names on waiting lists for credit courses.

The College has less money this year than last and costs are rising.

Not salary costs.

Employees at F.V.C. have had zero increases for two years and only in one year since the College opened have increases matched the cost of living. F.V.C. instructors are among the worst paid in the B.C. College system.

But still the College will be short of money.

Every instructor laid off means an average of 168 fewer student places.

There won't be room in Abbotsford.

Or anywhere?

ROUND THE PROVINCE:

B.C.I.T. have been confronted with a proposal called 'The Pursuit of Excellence', which involves using microcomputers rather than instructors in the classroom. Instructors feel lay-offs are inevitable and point out the huge capital costs of providing a computer work station for every 2 or 3 students if the plan is implemented.

SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?

The University of Ottawa - with special funding - began an Immersion Programme or Subject-matter language teaching experiment in 1982. Students with intermediate competence in French or English took an introductory Psychology course in their second language. Last fall the programme was to be expanded to include history.

DO WE UNDERSTAND WHAT THE COMMUNITY LOSES WHEN THE COLLEGE
HAS TO CLOSE ITS MISSION CAMPUS?

The Newsletter wants to make sure that all FSA members have enough information about the College's situation to discuss it in the Community. How many of us have discussed the closing of the Mission campus? Do we know enough about what has been happening in Mission? Have we assumed the students can just move over to Abbotsford? Do we think Mission is just a little outreach program for basketweaving and woolgathering?

It isn't small. A lot goes on in Mission. About 40% of it is leisure programming - the traditional hobby-oriented community education. Is that unimportant in days when there are more seniors and more 'enforced leisure' (unemployment) than ever before? No. Of course it's not unimportant. But Mission also provided University Transfer courses, Adult Basic Education and Second Language Training, part-time vocational training and short-course career update.

These are luxury items?

Let's be specific: Last year the centre served 3,298 students. F.V.C. Mission offered programmes for the mentally handicapped, Industrial First Aid, Grades 10, 11, 12 equivalence, English language - beginning and advanced, Typing, Filing, Business Machines, Shorthand, Word processing, Data entry, Accounting, Medical terminology and transcription, Homemaker training, Office and Reception training, Hospitality Certificate, Electrical Code C & B, and Job Search.

When people are unemployed or underemployed, should such programmes be cut?

In addition, the Mission Centre offered one day workshops for Mental Health and Long Term Care workers, a work experience programme, a one-write accounting course, Cardio-Pulmonary resuscitation, and a workshop for Doctors in Rehabilitation Medicine. It worked with or was used by 19 Community organizations and it also provided access to Knowledge Network. There were the equivalent of 5 full-time faculty, a programme and an office assistant, two part-time supervisory staff and 60 part-time instructors.

The Mission operation of Fraser Valley College was not lavish; it was fulfilling real needs in the community. Where will the students go?

To our nice new building in Abbotsford, right?

Wrong.

Last Fall there were 477 names on waiting lists for credit courses.

As we all know, the College has less money this year than last and costs are rising.

Not salary costs.

At F.V.C. we have had zero increases for one year and only in one year since the College opened have increases matched the cost of living.

But still the College will be short of money and every instructor laid off means an average of 168 fewer student places.

There won't be room in Abbotsford.

Or anywhere?

ROUND THE PROVINCE

B.C.I.T. have been confronted with a proposal called 'The Pursuit of Excellence', which involves using microcomputers rather than instructors in the classroom. Instructors feel lay-offs are inevitable and point out the huge capital costs of providing a computer work station for every 2 or 3 students if the plan is implemented.

SIGN OF THINGS TO COME?

The University of Ottawa - with special funding - began an Immersion Programme or Subject-matter language teaching experiment in 1982. Students with intermediate competence in French or English took an introductory Psychology course in their second language. Last fall the programme was to be expanded to include history.

PRINCIPAL'S EVALUATION

Principal Barry Moore has requested an evaluation. Executive members, Co-ordinators, and Assistant Co-ordinators will receive forms. Anyone else who wishes to participate, call FSA office (313) for a form.

COPYRIGHT

The FSA will be submitting a brief called 'COPYRIGHT AND THE NEEDS OF CONSUMERS' on the white paper 'FROM GUTENBERG TO TELIDON' which is available in L.R.C. Abby. Any FSA member who wishes to have input, please send comments to Jocelyn Cass.

AFTER LAY-OFF WHAT?

A SPECIAL NEWSLETTER ON BUMPING AND RELATED ISSUES WILL BE ISSUED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

And now...

PÉNSEES DE NOËL...

When the landlord wants the rent
Of your humble tenement;
When the Christmas bills begin
Daily, hourly pouring in;
When you pay your gas and poor rate,
Tip the rector, fee the curate,
Let this thought your spirit cheer -
Christmas comes but once a year.

When you roam from shop to shop,
Seeking, till you nearly drop,
Christmas cards and small donations
For the maw of your relations,
Questing vainly 'mid the heap,
For a thing that's nice, and cheap:
Think, and check the rising tear,
Christmas comes but once a year.

When mince pies you can't digest
Join with waits to break your rest:
When, oh when, to crown your woe,
Persons who might better know
Think it needful that you should
Don a gay convivial mood:-
Bear with fortitude and patience
These afflicting dispensations:
Man was born to suffer here:
Christmas comes but once a year.

- A.D. Godley